

AMENDMENT

Please add the following claims:

- B1
44. A recombinant *E. coli* host cell that contains an expression system for synthesizing methylmalonyl CoA.
45. The *E. coli* host cell defined in claim 44, wherein the methylmalonyl CoA is 2S-methylmalonyl CoA.
46. The *E. coli* host cell defined in claim 44, wherein the cell is modified with a propionyl carboxylase (pcc) expression system.
47. The *E. coli* host cell defined in claim 46, wherein the expression system comprises a pcc gene from *S. Coelicolor*.
48. The *E. coli* host cell defined in claim 46, wherein the expression system is p132.
49. The *E. coli* host cell defined in claim 44, that has been further modified to eliminate native propionate catabolism.
50. The *E. coli* host cell defined in claim 49, wherein the cell's prpA-D operon is disabled.
51. A method for producing methylmalonyl CoA in the *E. coli* host cell defined in claim 44 comprising culturing said host cell under conditions such that the expression system for producing methylmalonyl CoA is expressed and said methylmalonyl CoA is produced.
52. The method defined in claim 51, wherein the expression system expresses 2S-methylmalonyl CoA.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket No. 286002021100.

Respectfully submitted,

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